

THIS REPORT CONTAINS ASSESSMENTS OF COMMODITY AND TRADE ISSUES MADE BY USDA STAFF AND NOT NECESSARILY STATEMENTS OF OFFICIAL U.S. GOVERNMENT POLICY

Voluntary Public

Date: 8/29/2014

GAIN Report Number: RS1462

Russian Federation

Post: Moscow

2014 Customs Union Ag Times No. 5

Report Categories:

Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety

FAIRS Subject Report

Trade Policy Monitoring

Approved By:

Christopher Riker

Prepared By:

Staff

Report Highlights:

This report contains summaries of relevant decisions and documents from the Russia-Kazakhstan-Belarus Customs Union (CU) meetings, published between July 12 and August 28, 2014 that impact CU food and agriculture policy. Key documents included herein are draft amendments to the CU veterinary requirements and draft CU Technical Regulation on packaged water published for public review/comment; EEC Collegium decision No. 131 establishing CU tariff-rate quotas for 2015, as well as a tariff import decrease for blue whiting (which both appear consistent with Russia's World Trade Organization (WTO) commitments); and, a draft schedule for issuing or amending CU technical regulations in 2014-2015.

As noted herein, Russia notified several of the SPS/TBT measures covered in this report to the World Trade Organization (WTO).

General Information:

This report contains summaries of relevant decisions and documents from the Russia-Kazakhstan-Belarus Customs Union (CU) meetings, published between July 12 and August 28, 2014 that impact CU food and agriculture policy. Key documents included herein are draft amendments to the CU veterinary requirements and draft CU Technical Regulation on packaged water published for public review/comment; EEC Collegium decision No. 131 establishing CU tariff-rate quotas for 2015, as well as a tariff import decrease for blue whiting (which both appear consistent with Russia's World Trade Organization (WTO) commitments); and, a draft schedule for issuing or amending CU technical regulations in 2014-2015.

The documents below are hyperlinked via automated translation services for readers seeking further details. Select "refresh" on your browser if the page does not translate to the end.

As of the date of publication of this report, several of the SPS/TBT measures below have been notified to the World Trade Organization (WTO), as specified in the Post comment on such measures throughout the report.

Update on Kyrgyzstan and Armenia CU Bids

As part of preparations for Armenia's CU accession, on August 11, 2014, the Russian Government issued decree No. 800 "[On Submitting a Proposal to the President of the Russian Federation on the Signing of a Treaty on Armenia's Accession to the Treaty on the Eurasian Economic Union](#) (EEU, the CU successor, scheduled to come into effect on January 1, 2015)." The text of the Treaty on Armenia's EEU accession was not published. Meanwhile, in July 2014 Armenian Prime Minister Hovik Abrahamyan was [quoted](#) as saying that Armenia would sign a treaty on its EEU accession by the end of October this year.

As for the Kyrgyz Republic, Kyrgyz President Almazbek Atambayev [expressed hope](#) at a meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin on August 11, 2014, that the Kyrgyz Republic would join the CU and the EEU by the end of the year.

SPS MEASURES PUBLISHED FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Publication Date: August 6, 2014

- 1. Veterinary Requirements:** Draft Amendments to the Unified Veterinary (Veterinary and Sanitary) Requirements for Goods Subject to Veterinary Control (Surveillance) – original in [Russian](#). For English, please see GAIN report [RS1453 Draft Customs Union Amendments to Veterinary Requirements](#).

Comment: The draft document specifies the requirements for botulinum toxin in feeds, and adds a new chapter 42 with requirements for the import of laboratory animals. On August 22, 2014, Russia notified the World Trade Organization (WTO) of this draft document in its WTO notification: G/SPS/N/RUS/73. The comment period ends on October 21, 2014. Interested U.S. parties are encouraged to share their comments and concerns with USDA's enquiry point (us.spsenquiry@fas.usda.gov).

TBT MEASURES PUBLISHED FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Publication Date: August 1, 2014

1. **CU Technical Regulations:** Draft Technical Regulation of the Customs Union “On Safety of Potable Water Packaged in Containers” – original in [Russian](#).

Summary: On August 20, 2014, Russia notified this draft document to the WTO via [G/TBT/N/RUS/37](#). According to the notification, the draft “establishes requirements to drinking water packed in containers for the purposes of human life and health protection and prevention of customers’ deception.” The public comment period ends on October 6, 2014.

10th MEETING OF THE EURASIAN ECONOMIC COMMISSION COUNCIL **July 16, 2014**

Publication Date: July 30, 2014

EEC Council Decision No. 52. *On Establishment of Rates of Import Customs Duties of the Unified Customs Tariff of the Customs Union for Certain Types of Goods in Accordance with the Commitments of the Russian Federation in the Framework of the WTO* - original in [Russian](#)

Summary: The decision would decrease the import tariff for blue whiting classified under CU HS 0303 68 100 0 from the current 9% to 3% but not less than 0.015 per kg as of September 1, 2014, which appears to be in line with Russia’s WTO tariff commitments.

11th MEETING OF THE EURASIAN ECONOMIC COMMISSION COUNCIL **August 15, 2014**

Publication Date: August 18, 2014

EEC Council Decision No. 55. *On the Development of Comprehensive Proposals for Cooperation on the Issues of the World Trade Organization* - original in [Russian](#)

Summary: The decision instructs EEC Minister of Trade Slepnev to come up with comprehensive proposals for the cooperation of the CU parties on the WTO issues taking into account the discussion that has taken place, “including proposals on the use and protection of information.”

20th MEETING OF THE EURASIAN ECONOMIC COMMISSION COLLEGIUM **July 15, 2014**

Publication Date: July 16, 2014

EEC Collegium Decision No. 113. *Regulation on the Use of Documents Complying with the Generally Accepted Accounting Principles in the Application of Methods of Customs Valuation for Goods - original in [Russian](#)*

Summary: The decision states that the relevant Regulation was adopted in order to implement Russia's WTO commitment specified in paragraph 502 of the Working Party Report on Russia's WTO accession.

21th MEETING OF THE EURASIAN ECONOMIC COMMISSION COLLEGIUM
July 18, 2014

Publication Date: July 18, 2014

EEC Collegium Decision No. 124. *On Amendments to the List of Standards Containing the Rules and Methods of Examination (Testing) and Measurement, Including the Rules for Selection of Samples Required for Application and Meeting of the Requirements of the Technical Regulation of the Customs Union "On Safety of Grain" (TR CU 015/2011) and Carrying out of Assessment (Confirmation) of Products' Conformity - original in [Russian](#)*

Summary: The decision amends the respective list of standards by removing 5 existing standards and adding 19 new standards (from Russia, Belarus, and Kazakhstan) to the list.

EEC Collegium Decision No. 126. *On Draft Decision of the Council of the Eurasian Economic Commission "On Amendments to the Regulation on the Procedure of Phytosanitary Quarantine Control (Supervision) on the Customs Territory of the Customs Union" - original in [Russian](#)*

Summary: The decision approves a respective draft decision of the EEC Council, which will introduce various amendments throughout the Regulation, and refers exclusively to trade in phytosanitary goods between the CU member-states and does not apply to imports. As a draft, these amendments were published for public comments in December 2013 (please see GAIN report [RS1393 EEC Draft Amendments to Regulation on Phytosanitary Control on the CU Territory](#)) and notified to the WTO via [G/SPS/N/RUS/39](#).

22nd MEETING OF THE EURASIAN ECONOMIC COMMISSION COLLEGIUM
August 19, 2014

Publication Date: August 20, 2014

EEC Collegium Decision No. 131. *On the List of Goods, which are Subject to Tariff-Rate Quotas in 2015, and the Volume of Tariff-Rate Quotas for Imports of these Goods into the Member States of the Customs Union and Single Economic Space - original in [Russian](#)*

Summary: The decision determines the list of commodities subject to tariff rate quota (TRQ) regulations in 2015 and the volumes for the tariff-rate quotas for imports of these goods into the Customs Union territory (i.e., Russia, Kazakhstan, and Belarus). Russia's TRQ volumes appear consistent with its WTO commitments. The EEC Decision will enter into force 30 days from the

date of its official publication (i.e., September 19, 2014). For additional details, please see GAIN report [RS1456 Eurasian Economic Commission Announces 2015 Meat Poultry Whey TROs](#).

EEC Collegium Decision No. 136. *On Draft Decision of the Council of the Eurasian Economic Commission “On Amendments to the Technical Regulation of the Customs Union “Safety Requirements for Food Additives, Flavorings, and Technological Aids” (TR CU 029/2012)” - original in [Russian](#)*

Summary: The draft amendments will fix a technical mistake in the current CU Technical Regulation TR TS 029/2012 “Safety Requirements for Food Additives, Flavorings, and Technological Aids” by supplementing the list of flavorings allowed for children over 5 months old with the previously omitted natural flavoring “vanillin.” As a draft, these amendments were published for public comments in November 2012 (please see GAIN report [RS1277 Customs Union Ag Times No. 9](#)) and notified to the WTO via [G/TBT/N/RUS/10](#).

23rd MEETING OF THE EURASIAN ECONOMIC COMMISSION COLLEGIUM August 25, 2014

Publication Date: August 28, 2014

EEC Collegium Decision No. 141. *On Amending Membership of the Consultative Committee on Technical Regulation, Application of Sanitary, Veterinary, and Phytosanitary Measures - original in [Russian](#)*

Summary: The decision replaces a number of officials from Belarus, Kazakhstan and Russia with new officials from the three CU states. In particular, for Russia on the agricultural side Deputy Minister of Agriculture Andrey Volkov and Head of Rospotrebnadzor Anna Popova would replace, respectively, Deputy Minister of Agriculture Ilya Shestakov and former Head of Rospotrebnadzor Gennady Onishchenko.

EEC Collegium Decision No. 142. *On Draft Decision of the Council of the Eurasian Economic Commission “On the Schedule for Developing and Amending Technical Regulations of the Customs Union” - original in [Russian](#)*

Summary: The decision approves a respective draft schedule for submission of draft technical regulations or draft amendments to the CU technical regulations on agricultural-related goods to the EEC Commission for approval (i.e. after public comments have been collected and the draft has been cleared domestically in each CU member-state) as follows:

I. Development of Draft Technical Regulations:

- On Safety of Alcohol Products – I quarter of 2014
- On Safety of Tobacco Products - I quarter of 2014
- On Safety of Fish and Fish Products – I quarter of 2014
- On Safety of Feeds and Feed Additives – IV quarter of 2014
- On Safety of Potable Water Packaged in Containers – IV quarter of 2014

- On Safety of Poultry and Products of its Processing – IV quarter of 2014
- On Safety of Materials Contacting with Food Products – II quarter of 2015

II. Development of Draft Amendments to Technical Regulations:

- Amendments No. 3 to the Technical Regulation On Safety of Packaging (TR TS 005/2011) – IV quarter of 2014
- Amendments No. 2 to the Technical Regulation On Safety of Grain (TR TS 015/2011) – IV quarter of 2014
- Amendments No. 2 to the Technical Regulation on Fat and Oil Products (TR TS 024/2011) – IV quarter of 2014
- Amendments No. 2 to the Technical Regulation On Food Safety (TR TS 021/2011) – IV quarter of 2014
- Amendments No. 3 to the Technical Regulation On Food Safety (TR TS 021/2011) – III quarter of 2015